

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 28, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 4 and 5 have been objected to for improperly depending from claim 3. In response to the objections, Applicant has amended claims 4 and 5 to depend from claim 2.

Claim 10 has been objected to for lacking a period. In response to the objection, Applicant has amended claim 10 to add the missing period.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 5, and 10 are not objectionable and respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 13 has been rejected for the use of the term "sufficient".

In response to the rejection, Applicant has deleted the term "sufficient" from claim 13. In view of that amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 defines the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art at least does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15, 17, 19-23, 25, 27, and 28

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15, 17, 19-23, 25, 27, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stancil, et al.* ("Stancil," U.S. Pat. No. 6,065,081) in view of *Mooney, et al.* ("Mooney," U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,440).

As indicated above, Applicant has amended each independent claim through this Response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits of claim 1, Applicant notes that neither reference teaches or suggests a system "configured to receive authorization from a remote network administrator device" to communicatively couple to a connection device with a processing system. Regarding the Stancil reference, disclosed in column 5, lines 13-27, which was relied upon in the Office Action, is a user entering a password on the computer system on which slots are to be enabled or disabled. No separate "device" is described, and certainly no "remote" device is described.

Furthermore, neither reference teaches or suggests "a card detector configured to detect the presence of the connection device" that "facilitates connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device". Regarding the Mooney reference, which was relied upon in the Office Action, Mooney does not actually describe any "card detector". Moreover, even if one were to assume that Mooney's computer system comprised such a card detector, it is clear that such a "detector" would not detect a "connection device" that "facilitates connectivity" with a separate system or device. Instead, Mooney only describes a card reader for a

"chipcard" that stores data that is used to authenticate the user of the computer system. See *Mooney*, column 3, line 64 to column 4, line 12; column 5, line 45 to column 6, line 11. Therefore, *Mooney* does not describe a detector for detecting the card that is to be supplied or denied power depending upon receipt or no receipt of an authorization signal.

As a further matter, neither reference teaches or suggests a system in which "no input from a user of the processing system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device". Quite to the contrary, the computer systems described by both *Stancil* and *Mooney* rely on input from the user. Specifically, both systems make determinations as to whether to enable access to devices of the system relative to information that the user provides to establish that he or she is entitled to access those devices. In other words, the systems of both *Stancil* and *Mooney* are based on *authentication of the user*. In contradistinction, the system described in Applicant's claims supply or deny power to a computer system's devices not relative to authentication information provided by the system user, but relative to an authorization signal that is provided *from another device*. Clearly, neither *Stancil* nor *Mooney* contemplate such a system.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependents are allowable over *Stancil/Mooney*.

Turning to independent claim 13, neither *Stancil* nor *Mooney* teach or suggest "detecting presence of an intermediary connection device when coupled to a processing system, the connection device being configured to facilitate connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device" for reasons

described above. As for the Mooney reference, Mooney describes no detection of such a "connection" device, or any device that will or will not be supplied with power depending upon whether an authorization is present.

Furthermore, neither reference teaches or suggests "determining *if the connection device is authorized* to be communicatively coupled to the processing system" (emphasis added). As mentioned above, both Stancil and Mooney describe systems in which it is determined *whether the user is authorized*.

In addition, neither reference teaches or suggests "wherein no input from a user of the processing system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device" for reasons described above.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 13 and its dependents are allowable over Stancil/Mooney.

Turning to independent claim 21, neither Stancil nor Mooney teach or suggest "means for detecting presence of an intermediary connection device when coupled to a processing system, the connection device being configured to facilitate connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device", "means for determining if the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system", or "wherein no input from a user of the system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device" for reasons describe above. Applicant therefore submits that claim 21 and its dependents are allowable over Stancil/Mooney.

B. Rejection of Claims 3, 10, 16, 18, 24, and 26

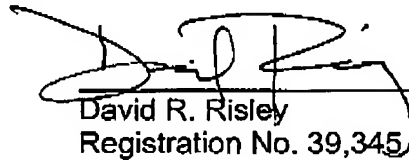
Claims 3, 10, 16, 18, 24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stancil* in view of *Mooney* and further in view of *Morrow* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0156151). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, *Stancil* and *Mooney* do not teach several aspects of Applicant's claims. In that *Morrow* does not remedy the deficiencies of the *Stancil* and *Mooney* references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 10, 16, 18, 24, and 26 are allowable over the *Stancil/Mooney/Morrow* combination for at least the same reasons that claim 1, 13, and 21 are allowable over *Stancil/Mooney*.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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